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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Raymond P. Johnston, et al.	Examiner: Morgan, Marjorie A.
Serial No.: 09/612,418	Group Art Unit: 1631
Filed: July 7, 2000	Docket No. 27987-228356
For: DETECTION ARTICLE HAVING FLUID CONTROL FILM	3M Docket No. 54971US006

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231I CERTIFY THAT, ON MARCH 27, 2006, THIS PAPER IS BEING
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Lisa Johnson

DECLARATION OF RAYMOND P. JOHNSTON UNDER 37 CFR § 1.131

I, Raymond P. Johnston, declare and state as follows:


1. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application. I have been employed by 3M, the assignee of the above-identified application, since 1980. My position is Senior Research Specialist.
2. My job responsibilities include research in the area of microreplication and fluidic systems.
3. It was in connection with these responsibilities that the above-identified invention was conceived and reduced to practice.
4. Prior to February 10, 2000, we were in possession of the conception to provide spontaneous fluid transport through a microchannel in a detection article. Conception is evidenced by the attached record of invention and the description of the fluid flow in the detection articles. Particular attention should be directed to the fact that one of the advantages listed in the record of invention includes "the ability to engineer the surface to provide fluid movement to defined locations" and that the record of invention shows examples as put forth in the specification, such as Example 4 on page 60 of the application.

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Moreover, microchannels such as shown on page 7 of the attached record of invention were made before February 10, 2000 by one of the methods for making films as described in the specification. These detection articles provided the spontaneous fluid flow as claimed in the present application.

5. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any application or any patent issued thereon.


Raymond P. JohnstonDated: March 24, 2006

Declaration RJ III.doc